



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

08/30/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF AUGUST 30, 2011 MEETING

In attendance: Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, David White.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved with the correction of a couple of typos. (The June meeting, which was to have been the year-end celebration, was rained out. There was no meeting scheduled for July.)

Environment - Reservoir:

The habitat garden is doing well; the hurricane had little effect on it. DPW has installed a water line, and volunteers have watered the garden when it didn't rain. The Reservoir Committee will have a brief meeting on site on September 10 to prepare for Town Day, followed by more work in the garden.

Harvesting the water chestnuts infesting the Reservoir was a big job, done by Aquatic Control Technologies. It cost \$20,000, using up all the FY11 money in the waterbodies fund. Hand harvesting in the shallowest areas was done by 21 volunteers. The harvesting machinery did some damage to the shore where it went into the water. Maybe a permanent access ramp is needed.

Busa Farm has a berm, so fertilizer runoff into the Res should be a significant problem.

Environment - Spy Pond: No recent meeting; will meet next week. Phragmites is showing some regrowth, so another treatment will be needed in the fall.

Environment – Sustainable Arlington: The July meeting was replaced by a public meeting on climate change, led by four students from the Climate Summer project, which sent college students by bicycle from town to town to raise awareness about the climate problem. The students did a summary of the ideas generated at the meeting. No report available yet from the August meeting.

Diversity: New members who signed up through the census survey brought some new ideas. A program with Spanish-speaking people is being planned. The committee viewed a film about people in wheelchairs and is working with the Commission on Disability on this topic.

Symmes: The Redevelopment Board heard from four possible developers. It prefers Upton Partners, but JAG, the next choice, has purchased the note from the Bank. The Board is trying to get them to work together.

Spy Pond: On Sept. 10 the Friends of Spy Pond Park will have a work/fun day, 1 – 4 p.m. The Land Trust will offer tours of Elizabeth Island. The Board of Health is looking for a way to control the microcystis bacteria which closed the pond to swimming most of the summer. A copper compound would work but is extremely expensive.

Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford got a DCR grant to design a bikeway map for the Web, design common markings, etc. Another grant would be needed to make the designs a reality.

Town Day will be Sept. 17, rain date Sept. 24. We will have three tables in the same place as last year. For our next meeting, Sept. 13, THINK about what to display and how. Use the rolling boards again? Add pictures of habitat garden to the ones from the Trails Day project? Hand out bookmarks listing Vision 2020 projects? Display phragmites, water chestnuts?

A state law has been proposed that would require each town to have a master plan. Arlington doesn't have one now, just partial ones like the Open Space Plan. The next census survey could be used to prepare residents and get their input.